

ABOUT LITTLE THINGS.

In the year that is past, more persons failed because of a neglect of doing little things than from any other cause whatever. Three-fourths of the bank failures, railroad wrecks and failures in business of various kinds can be traced to the same source, neglect of little things. Great battles have been won, vast conquests made, strong characters developed because of a willingness to do the little things which had to be done. Great nations have been built of little things. Mighty reforms have been successfully wrought by holding before the public the results of little deeds.

Our lives are made up of little things. No one ever makes his mark who sits down and waits for great things. The world needs more men who are ready to do the thousand and one little things rather than more men who can do the great things. Many have remained idle, "all the day" because the very work which they could do and perhaps the *only* work which they could do *well* is distasteful. Many a soul remains narrow and dwarfed because it refuses to be ornamented and made strong by the means which abound on every side. To give the poor orphan a kind word, visit the consumptive confined to his or her bed is a very little thing, but more joy has been given by such a deed than the prayer on the "street-corners" to be seen and heard of men.

The religion which Christ brought into the world consists of *little things* to be done. Little within themselves but mighty in result. But for this very reason, men reject it. Like Naaman of old. Had the Master required some great thing that would pander to the pride and self-glory of man, instead of something that would humble his proud and haughty spirit, he would say "Yes, Lord, I will do what you ask." The Jews rejected the counsel of John, "not being baptized of him." A little thing, indeed. But it made a square issue between them. The requirement of John was to be set aside or the stubborn will be made to yield. The issue involved was the acceptance or rejection of eternal life. Do you say that it was unjust to reject them because of a refusal to do such a little thing? If it was but a *little thing* why hesitate when the au-

thority of heaven speaks. Their refusal to obey showed that they were *determined to have their own way* whether right or wrong. For such a spirit the angels of heaven would be rejected.

The rich young man who came to Christ asking what to do to obtain eternal life, found that he had done many things which were necessary but there was *one thing* he had not done. It was a little thing to do but the man decided that he would not do it. Notwithstanding it is stated that the Lord loved him. The refusal to do *one thing, only one*, proved his ruin. He was rejected. We should be careful how we refuse to do even one thing.

The dispute between Brother A and B seemed a *very little thing*. The officers of the church decided it *was* a little thing and would not try to adjust the trouble. It grew larger and larger until two-thirds of the church became involved. Many good meaning members consider the whole affair such a disgrace that they withdraw. The officers try to excuse themselves with the plea that they can do nothing. *It is now a big thing*. Some are disowned; more withdraw. The result is that the influence of the church is ruined. Good men who were thinking of becoming members turn away in disgust. The officers failed to do the *little thing*. "Take care of the little things and the great things will take care of themselves."

G. W. R.

PRAYER.

This subject of prayer is a grand one and one that every man, woman and child should be familiar with and interested in. Prayer is not a form as some people would say and try to have us believe. It is the outpouring of the heart's choicest language to its God. And what different kinds of prayer and what different ways of offering it. It may be the prayer of a joyous happy child offered up at the knee of its mother, or the wail of a poor heart-broken creature on the verge of despair. It may be the prayer of a king, or the prayer of a beggar, but certain it is, that if offered in the right spirit it will be answered, for as the heart longs for the blessing it shall be granted. God says, "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it un-

to you." Then there are so many precious promises in the Bible in regard to prayer. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." "I will come unto thee, I will not leave thee comfortless."

All down the ages men and women have been praying, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven," and surely God means to answer that prayer. Surely at some time God will grant that it may be done on earth, in accordance, as it is done in heaven. We must pray. No one can be or remain a Christian without praying every day of their lives. We must pray to be kept from the tempter's power, and especially those who have to go out and battle with the world. Then what a force is prayer. Gravitation can hold the planets in their orbits, but if one should wander from its path could gravitation bring it back? No. But prayer is the means by which the erring soul can be brought back to God.

MISS LULIE BRASHEAR.

DON'T.

Don't bring your troubles to the table, or allow yourself to think or speak of domestic cares during meal time. Half of the nostrums for the cure of dyspepsia, headache and neuralgia would disappear from the market if this rule should be followed. Silence and surliness on the one hand, querulous fault finding and snarling on the other, are bad aids to digestion, and convert a feast into a fruitful breeder of disease. Those who have read "Southey's Table-Talk" and other works of the kind may realize how greatly agreeable an intellectual conversation can be made to conduce to physical benefit; and how a ready reply or happy repartee may convert a meal into "a feast of reason" as well as a moral agency for permanent, mental and physical improvement. Try it. There is nothing like acquiring a habit in such matters. And if you do not find a rich return in improved spirits, appetite and general bodily and mental comfort, the whole science and theory of hygiene is a delusion. Mr. Pecksniff's belief that in setting his wonderful digestive machinery in motion, he was a benefactor of society, was not a very bad idea after all.